MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 SEPTEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz to all oil exporters in the region if Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations lead to a halt in Iran's oil exports, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said in remarks reported by IRNA. Speaking at a ceremony opening weeklong activities marking the 5th anniversary of the war, the president said Iran will respond to raids on oil installations by inflicting "crushing" blows on Iraqi economic installations. Reports from vessels in the Khark Island area indicated that 99 percent of the northern loading jetty in the island's western dock was destroyed during the 19 September Iraqi raid, the Bahrain paper *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed. However, a later report by the paper citing Gulf shipping sources said the western dock is free of wrecks and could soon be back in operation. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in a speech to Air Force pilots broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, warned that Iraq will destroy all "vital pillars" of Iran's economy and scientific institutions if Iran does not seize an opportunity to stop the war. Contending that Khark Island's western dock is "out of action," he claimed that the Iraqi Air Force has hit as many Iranian targets in the last 2 months as it did during the entire preceding period of the war. The Iraqi president added that Iranian rulers' "empty haughtiness" about closing the Strait of Hormuz is "nonsense."

Meanwhile, a Danish cargo ship was seized by the Iranian Navy and led to a southern Iranian port for inspection, IRNA reported. In an effort to step up the deterrent against Iranian ship seizures, the French frigate "Protet" will escort French merchant ships in the Gulf until they reach safe waters, according to *GULF DAILY NEWS*.

In another development, Iranian jets attacked an Iraqi industrial installation in Maysan 20 September, the Iranian Joint Staff Command announced in an IRNA report. Earlier, Iran downed an intruding Iraqi warplane in the northwestern fronts, the agency announced, while an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that two Iranian pilots sought refuge in Iraq with their helicopters.

IRNA reported that at least 150 Iraqi troops were killed during a 21 September Iranian offensive west of Bakhtaran. More than 400 Iranian soldiers were killed during an attack in the northern sector 18 September, according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses.

Jordan: Thatcher Initiative

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will receive a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in London next month in a "fresh step in the Middle Eastern peace process." Speaking at a news conference in Aqaba reported by Amman television, Thatcher said the delegation will include two PLO Executive Committee members, Bishop Iliya Khuri and former Halul Mayor Muhammad Milhim, as well as the Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. Noting that the PLO members in the delegation are "men of peace," Thatcher said she hopes the move will promote King Husayn's peace initiative and "help" the United States take a similar step. Reacting to Thatcher's announcement, an editorial in the Amman paper *AL-RA'Y* said the decision was "courageous" and marked an "important change" in the British stand. Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told Radio Monte Carlo that Thatcher's move is a "turning point," while Baghdad Voice of PLO radio praised Britain for making a "giant leap" into the Mideast crisis and adopting a position before Washington. However, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio that it is "difficult" to understand Thatcher's decision to approve a meeting with representatives of a "terrorist organization" when she is personally against capitulating to terrorism. Earlier, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio condemned the initiative, claiming that it will encourage "extremist" elements who exacerbate the conflict rather than advance peace negotiations. Israeli sources cited by Jerusalem television said Thatcher will be receiving a delegation which "legitimizes terrorism," while Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio that Israel will submit an official protest to Britain over the issue.

PLO-JORDAN

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-WATAN* cited by KUNA, accused the Jordanian intelligence apparatus of trying to undermine PLO-Jordanian relations by inciting "doubts" and presenting reports that the PLO is intending to bring about a return to the pre-1970 situation in Jordan.

Syria-Jordan

Cancellation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is one of the conditions Syria is making for normalizing relations with Jordan, according to a Radio Monte Carlo report citing the Syrian newspaper *TISHRIN*. The newspaper said this condition was conveyed to Jordan during the Jeddah meeting last week between the Syrian and Jordanian prime ministers.

Lebanon

An IDF helicopter was hit on the ground during an IDF operation in the border strip 21 September, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. He also noted that three IDF soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit a mine in the area. The Israelis subsequently blew up the damaged helicopter before returning across the border, Jerusalem radio noted, and they also killed or captured the three "terrorists" who had attacked the chopper with an antitank missile. The IDF operation in southern

Lebanon was in response to a rocket attack on northern Israel from the area, according to the radio.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that a Syrian delegation held contacts with Tripoli leaders over the weekend in an attempt to stop the fighting, which has resulted in 150 dead and 450 wounded. The shelling continued unabated during the night of 22-23 September but subsequently eased, the radio said.

Israel

The Alignment-Likud dispute over ways to resolve the Tabah issue continued over the weekend, with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres denying Likud minister Moshe Arens' claim that an Israeli delegation which will visit Cairo soon has not been authorized to discuss arbitration on the Tabah issue, Jerusalem radio reported. The Alignment also criticized Likud ministers for foiling Peres' proposal to allocate an additional $6 million to the Health Ministry budget, according to the radio.

Jerusalem radio noted that a booby-trapped car was discovered and safely detonated in Jerusalem's Me'a She'arim street, a Jewish Orthodox neighborhood. A caller to AFP claimed responsibility for the bomb on behalf of the PLO's squad 17.

Egypt

No one has a right to question any decision Spain might make concerning establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said at a news conference reported by MENA at the end of President Husni Mubarak's 3-day visit to Spain. Maintaining that Egypt is "confident" of Spain's ability to deal with "sensitive" issues, 'Abd al-Majid expressed the hope that such a move will not affect existing relations between Spain and the Arab countries.

Sudan

Two people were killed and 45 others were injured in Khartoum 21 September when demonstrators condemning Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) operations in the south clashed with SPLA supporters, SUNA reported. The anti-SPLA demonstrators, organized by the Islamic National Front and other Muslim political groups, submitted a memorandum to the Transitional Military Council (TMC) calling on the government to lift the unilateral cease-fire in the south and criticizing the parties in the National Alliance of Trade Unions for supporting SPLA leader John Garang. In an emergency session the same day, the Council of Ministers decided to ban demonstrations until the lifting of the state of emergency, Omdurman radio announced. The special cabinet session also focused on the message received recently from Garang, Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah disclosed in remarks broadcast by the radio, noting that the ministers view the SPLA leader's message as contradictory since it contains some "constructive elements" but also makes demands and conditions that "contradict the democratic spirit." The prime minister called on Garang to take steps that will lead to talks at "the expected dialogue table" and end the fighting in the south. Da'fallah noted in his remarks that the message from Garang was not received fully as it was conveyed by radio, and he backed up the Army Command's contention that SPLA concentrations around Nasir had prevented the message being directly conveyed by air. However, in statements broadcast by its clandestine radio, the SPLA High Command accused the TMC of subverting delivery of the letter to the government and of distorting its contents in order to incite hostility against Garang's movement among the political forces in Khartoum. The SPLA leadership warned that if the letter is not collected from Nasir by 6 pm local time 23 September, the SPLA will consider itself absolved of any responsibility for the continuation of the war in the south. Garang's radio also noted that the SPLA has called on government forces in Bor to surrender and Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah had earlier acknowledged in a statement cited by SUNA that the Army units in Bor are facing a "critical situation." Nevertheless, the Bor garrison repulsed a SPLA offensive launched early 20 September, he announced in another statement reported by the Agency.

Libyan Foreign Relations

JANA's Arab affairs editor denied reports alleging that Libya will participate in a mini-Arab summit to be held in Jeddah. Meanwhile, Ugandan Foreign Minister Olara Otunnu conveyed an oral message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from Ugandan leader General Tito Okello expressing Uganda's desire to establish "firm" and "entrenched" relations with Libya, JANA disclosed. In another development, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry summoned the Libyan charge d'affaires in Tunis to protest the burning of a car belonging to the Tunisian consulate general in Tripoli 21 September, Tunis radio announced.

Western Sahara: Attacks on Spanish Ships

The Polisario Front in a telephone call to a Spanish maritime radio station claimed responsibility for machine-gunning a Spanish fishing boat off the Moroccan coast as well as a Spanish Navy patrol boat coming to its rescue 21 September, Madrid radio reported. One Spanish sailor was killed and two others were wounded during the attack on the Navy vessel, the radio noted, while seven fishermen are missing from the trawler. Earlier, a representative of the Polisario Front in Paris cited by Madrid radio denied his organization was involved in the incidents. In another report by the radio, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez denounced the attacks.

Afghanistan

Afghan mujahidin have succeeded in halting the counteroffensive that Soviet and DRA forces launched in eastern Paktia Province in mid-August, SPA disclosed. Mujahidin sources cited by the agency said Soviet and DRA forces suffered 1,617 casualties during the counteroffensive, while the mujahidin had 739 casualties.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he is committed to fulfilling the prime minister's promise that martial law will be lifted by the end of this year, Karachi radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal Chairs PDPA Politburo Session 21 Sep
LD222201 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired yesterday [21 September] by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The Politburo session, which was held at the Revolutionary Council Headquarters, discussed the results of the high jirga of tribes, whose work was recently concluded.

Speaking on the great importance of the great tribal jirga comprising all the country's tribes and the free tribes, Karmal said: The high jirga of tribes is indicative of the ever-increasing unity and cohesion of the Pashtun tribes and the country's other fraternal tribes and clans around the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government and manifests that the party's authority is consistently increasing among the masses of the people. The confidence of the people, including the tribes, is further increasing in the PDPA, the DRA Government, and the aspirations of the April Revolution.

In the existence of the PDPA and the wise leader of Afghan society, they see that a clear, precise, and just plan has been presented for the solution of the tribal quesitons for the first time in the country's history. In the DRA state, they see a powerful, sympathetic, and sincere state which does not deceive them as did the corrupt monarchy, keeps its promises, and utilizes its opportunities and will toward unity among the tribes and nationalities for their prosperity, well-being, and social progress.

Karmal added: The high jirga of the tribes showed and emphasized that the Pashtuns, wherever they are, consider Afghanistan their common historical home. The high jirga of the tribes emphasized that without an independent, free, and powerful Afghanistan, the freedom of the Pashtuns and Baluchis is impossible.

Emphasizing the high tradition of jirgas and the great role of the tribes in the country's history and the defense of the freedom and independence of Afghanistan and safeguarding the homeland's borders, Karmal referred to the [words indistinct] of the recent tribal jirga and said: The historic importance of the high jirga of the border tribes lies in the fact that the question of protecting the DRA border was comprehensively discussed and the Pashtun tribes and clans expressed their resolute support for defending the borders of the DRA as well as their desire to halt the undeclared war that has been imposed on our people and homeland.

Karmal said: The participation of the representatives of the free border tribal areas in the jirga, points to the international authority and influence of Afghanistan and the constructive essence of the PDPA's and DRA's policy. They confirmed the statement of the PDPA leadership concerning support for the struggles of the Pashtun and Baluchi tribes residing in the free tribal regions for their independence and freedom.

Karmal added: The high jirga of the border tribes condemned the conspiracies and intrigues of the homeland's enemies, which are organized with the direct help of the U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, and reaction of the region against the DRA, and expressed thanks for the all-round internationalist assistance of the Soviet Union, this great friend of the people of Afghanistan.

Karmal said: The successful conclusion of the high jirga of the border tribes emphasized the consolidation and expansion of the social pillars of revolution and respect for the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government.

Emphasizing the importance and vitality of the decisions and resolutions of the high jirga of border tribes, Karmal said that the unconditional implementation of these resolutions and decisions should become the urgent task of all party, state, and social organizations. All party committees, the government, the National Fatherland Front [NFF], and other social organizations are duty bound to devote all their capabilities, initiatives, and power to the implementation of these great decisions.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo highly assessed the successful convocation of the high jirga of the border tribes and emphasized, as Karmal said, that it is the fundamental and principled task of the party, state, and social organizations to implement the decisions and resolutions of the high jirga of tribes and advance precise, fruitful, and responsible work to implement these resolutions.

The PDPA Central Committee session fully affirmed and supported Karmal's statements to the high jirga of tribes. The Politburo sincerely welcomed the pledges that were made by the elders and representatives of the tribes and clans in a completely voluntary manner concerning the defense of the homeland's borders, the growth and consolidation of the tribal (?forces), border militias, self-defense, and the organization of effective cooperation with the state. The Politburo approved a resolution in this regard.

The Politburo also discussed matters related to the inprovement of the socioeconomic condition of the DRA's border provinces and sent a note in this regard to the DRA Council of Ministers.

The session discussed the process of implementing the complex plan by expanding and consolidating the state power during the current year. It was noted that the prompt elimination of the counterrevolution and the liberation of the country's localities from the filth of the counterrevolution should be intensified.

The Politburo session pointed out that the realization of the complex plan and the expansion and consolidation of revolutionary rule in localities is the necessary condition for the country's socioeconomic growth, the prosperity of the localities, and the well-being and prosperity of the toilers.

In this regard, Karmal emphasized that further coordination between organizations and establishments should be exercised in realizing the complex plan. In this way the effectiveness of implementing the complex plan must be enhanced.

The Politburo session also discussed the question of how to improve party-political work in the DRA Armed Forces. It was

pointed out that political work in the ranks of the Armed Forces should be improved. This work should also implement a higher level of discipline in the Armed Forces, a qualitative improvement of political awareness, and also a higher level of the combat morale of the staff of the DRA Armed Forces.

The Politburo also discussed other topics at this session and made the necessary decisions.

Dost, USSR's Shevardnadze Confer in New York

LD211829 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA foreign minister, yesterday met Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign affairs minister, who, in relation to the 40th UN General Assembly is staying in New York. During this meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, both sides expressed satisfaction with the situation of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet Union side expressed its unchanging support of constructive policy of the DRA for solving the situation surrounding Afghanistan. A complete end to foreign interference and a guarantee not to resume armed interference in the affairs of Afghanistan must be the necessary conditions for this solution. In this connection both countries' foreign ministers believe that efforts toward turning the attention of the General Assembly away from the important matters, and again raising the so-called Afghanistan problem in a distorted manner in the session is neither proper nor beneficial.

Riyadh: Eastern Offensive Ends; Forces Withdraw

GF211323 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Afghan mujahidin sources today stated that the offensive launched by the Soviet occupation forces and the Babrak Karmal regime forces against the mujahidin in Eastern Afghanistan has ended and that the forces of both sides are currently withdrawing from the main battle area. The Soviet forces withdrew to Khowst, while the mujahidin began returning to their positions after retaliating against the Soviet offensive.

SPA: Casualty Figures

GF220812 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Sep (SPA) — Afghan mujahidin have succeeded in halting the counteroffensive launched by the mujahidin against Soviet and DRA forces in eastern Paktia Province in mid-August involving 20,000 troops and a large number of tanks and planes.

Afghan mujahidin sources said last night that the mujahidin forced the communist forces to retreat toward Khowst near the Pakistani border following bloody battles in Alazha, Chamkani, and Bareh-ye last Friday [20 September].

The sources added that during the battle the mujahidin killed 325 communist troops, damaged 37 tanks, and downed 5 planes.

Forty-five of the mujahidin were martyred.

The sources indicated that the overall losses sustained during the communist counteroffensive in Paktia are estimated at 617 killed and 1,000 wounded among DRA and Soviet forces.

The mujahidin suffered 189 martyred and 550 wounded.

SPA: Mujahidin Down USSR Aircraft With SAM Missle

GF221849 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Sep (SPA) — The Afghan mujahidin have managed to kill 26 soldiers of the Soviet invasion forces when they shot down a Soviet transport aircraft near (Masai) Region south of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on 17 September.

Mujahidin sources in Peshawar stated that the mujahidin downed the aircraft by firing a SAM-7 missile and added that the aircraft was carrying a large amount of ammunition and many soldiers.

Clashes With Pakistani Troops in Kashmir Reported

HK201604 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 20 (AFP) — Indian and Pakistani warplanes and troops [have] been fighting for the past four days around the disputed Siachin Glacier in the border region of Ladakh, perhaps causing casualties on both sides, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today. Quoting reliable sources in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir, PTI said the outbreak of fighting was one of the most serious in recent times.

Indian troops and planes repulsed a Pakistani attack, PTI said. The report did not say whether the exchange was still continuing.

The fighting erupted on Monday when men of the Pakistani Special Service Group and the Northern Area Light Infantry tried to dislodge Indian troops from near the Bilafornd and Sia Passes, under cover of heavy Pakistani aerial strafing, PTI said.

The vast mountainous tract in and around the Siachin Glacier has been a point of tension between India and Pakistan since 1971, when the de facto border there was delineated.

The 1971 Simla Agreement between the two countries granted the territory, which lies closer to the borders of both China and Pakistan, to India according to New Delhi. Since then, the two countries have applied different principles of demarcation to claim jurisdiction over the strategic area.

AFP: Two Pakistanis Killed

NC221326 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 22 (AFP) — Indian troops shot dead two Pakistani soldiers in a 12-hour exchange of fire in the disputed Jammu region of Kashmir yesterday. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today.

An Indian border security force spokesman told PTI that Pakistani troops "began firing on our outposts with light machine-gun fire." The Indian forces returned the fire, killing two Pakistanis, he added. There were no Indian casualties. The spokesman said that a Pakistani aircraft flew over the area during the exchange of fire.

The fighting broke out at Munnawar Tawi, on the U.N. monitored "line of actual control," in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir State, disputed by India and Pakistan. The line of actual control was established in 1949 following a brief war between India and Pakistan. The two countries have since fought two more wars, in 1965 and 1971.

PTI said Friday that Indian and Pakistani warplanes and troops had been fighting for the previous four days around the disputed Siachin Glacier in the border region of Ladakh in Kashmir. The vast mountainous tract in and around the glacier has been a point of tension between the two countries since 1971, when the de facto border there was delineated.

'Antisocial Elements' Arrested in Jammu

BK220306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] In Jammu city, over 130 persons were arrested during the last 2 days under a drive against the antisocial elements. An official spokesman said in Jammu that arrests have also been made from areas outside Jammu city.

Continuing Reportage on Upcoming Punjab Elections

Railway Station Bomb Kills 3

HK220620 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 22 (AFP) — At least three people were killed today when a transistor bomb exploded near the old Delhi railway station, police said as they reported 58 fresh arrests in raids on suspected Sikh militant hideouts. Two more unexploded bombs inside transistor radios were found in a bag near the site of the incident and police issued a warning to the public not to touch any unidentified object.

A series of transistor bomb explosions in May killed 49 people and injured 127 in Delhi. Police arrested 58 persons after the 37 blasts in the capital, which were blamed on Sikh militants.

Meanwhile police last night arrested 58 more people in simultaneous raids on suspected Sikh militant hideouts including temples, taking the total arrests since Friday to about 160. The arrested included unidentified Army officers, government officials and businessmen.

Police said they believed some of the arrested, including one man described as a middle-ranking Army officer, might have been involved in the killing of two Congress party politicians earlier this year.

Further Details

BK220844 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Three people were killed in a booby trap explosion near old Delhi railway station this morning. One person was injured and was discharged after first aid. According to a police spokesman a bag containing three transistors was found at the site of the explosion. It exploded after the three tried to touch it. The Army bomb disposal squad was placed into service. The police are investigating the case. The police have requested the public not to touch suspicious looking objects and also transistors, briefcases and toys.

Security arrangements in the capital were today further tightened in the wake of this morning's bomb explosion. According to police tight vigil is being maintained at railway stations, bus terminals, the airport, cinema houses and other public places.

Manhunt for Sikh Militants

HK201343 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sep 20 (AFP) — Some 2,000 investigators from several states and federal agencies have stepped up a five-month-old manhunt for eight top Sikh militants, fearing they may violently disrupt elections in Punjab Wednesday, officials said today. The authorities today said their arrest was vital for peace during the polls to elect a state assembly and state representatives to the federal parliament, ending two years of direct federal rule.

The eight Sikhs, supporters of a campaign for independence for Punjab, are suspected by police of planting transistor bombs last May killing 49 people and injuring 127. Police arrested 58 persons following 37 such explosions in the capital. The wanted men may also have also been involved in the assassination this summer of a ruling Congress (I) Party M.P., police said.

The federal government has announced awards on the heads of the eight men, said to have received training in Pakistan. But police say finding them is likely to be difficult, as seven of their associates have either committed suicide to avoid arrest or died in police custody without revealing their whereabouts.

Police here and in Punjab and Haryana States have launched a joint exercise to arrest the eight men, said to be headed by K.S. Kohli, alias "Inspector", once a close lieutenant of Sikh militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale killed by troops in fighting in Punjab last year. Mr Kohli is said to have received commando training in a secret Pakistan base, intelligence sources said.

Delhi police have said their only leads on Mr Kohli snapped this month when arrested militant Jagdish Singh Bhatia, wanted in the transistor bomb cases, ate potassium cynaide in police custody and died, while another militant, Praveen Kaushal, slit his throat on September 16 before he was to be arrested. Mr Kaushal was wanted for conspiracy to assassinate Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal in July, authorities said.

The militants oppose an accord made between moderate Sikhs and the government the same month, which paved the way for the elections that they also oppose.

Police suspect Mr Kohli may also have been behind the murder of moderate Sikh Harchand Singh Longowal shortly after he signed the accord.

Unprecedented security has been clamped in for the election in Punjab, neighbouring Haryana State and New Delhi, officials said today.

Meanwhile, many top opposition party leaders have started arriving in the state for electioneering, following visits there by Premier Rajiv Gandhi, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Mr Gandhi visited the state Monday and Wednesday on behalf of Congress (I). He is to fly to the state again late today, with four helicopters carrying commandos and other personal security men. Large numbers of paramilitary troops are deployed at his poll meetings.

PTI said three top opposition leaders — Atal Bihari Vajpayee, chairman of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Madhu Dandawate, parliamentary party leader of Janata, and Harkishan Singh, independent Communist Party of India, Marxist (CPI-M) leader — addressed the press separately in Punjab, chiefly attacking Congress (I).

Election commission officials said they had asked the Punjab administration to order the surrender of all private licensed guns and other weapons, and to keep watch on vehicles and certain Sikh militants as part of a maximum security clamp thrown across the state.

Analysts say the poll battle is chiefly between Congress (I) and the moderate Sikh Akali Dal Party for the 115 state legislative assembly seats and for the 13 seats Punjab has in the federal parliament's lower house.

Each candidate has two armed bodyguards and no serious election-related violence has been reported. Press reports have said more than 300 suspected Sikh militants have been detained in security forces raids across the state this month.

Most campaign meetings of all parties have not been well attended, partly because of fears of violence, observers said.

Mr Dandawate charged Congress (I) with having deliberately delayed settlement of Punjab's problems.

CPI-M Politburo member Surjit maintained, despite a denial by Mr Gandhi recently, that the ruling party had a secret poll pact with the moderate Akali Dal. PTI said he showed reporters in Jullundur a badge allegedly distributed to the public which had the Congress (I) poll slogan on one side and that of the Sikh party on the other. Mr Gandhi has denied the allegation and said his party aimed to win.

Police To Seal Off Amritsar

HK230448 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 23 Sep 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 23 (AFP) — Guns drawn, security forces scramble into jeeps and on to motor-cycles to race through city streets and village lanes as darkness falls. Operation "Dusk" against Sikh militants has begun.

A pisotl shot signals the start of the operation, the latest move by Punjab authorities to combat militants who have vowed to thwart Elections in the state set for Wednesday.

"I am keeping my fingers crossed... we have done what is humanly possible to ensure a safe and peaceful poll..." Police Chief Sukhdarshan Lekhi told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in this Sikh holy city. "Yes, the election security here is unprecedented, but do we have a choice... one incident could disrupt everything," said Mr Lehi, 53, who once served in India's top border commando outfit, the Special Service Branch.

Some 10 million people will be eligible to cast their votes to elect 115 state assembly deputies and 13 representatives to the lower house of the federal parliament. The polls will end direct federal rule here imposed two years ago because of mounting militant violence.

"We have narrowed the 'response time' (time taken from occurrence of incident to arrival of police) to less than two minutes and by polling day, we will further reduce it to just 60 seconds", Mr Lekhi said.

Drop gates have been erected around this city and Mr Lekhi said an exercise Saturday to seal it off for eight hours was "very successful". From today Amritsar is to be sealed again, with no movement in or out that is not approved by the authorities, until the election is over.

Moderate Sikhs wanting merely more autonomy for Punjab are to take part in the polls, but militants seeking independence have urged a boycott.

In addition to a massive deployment of security forces, three people in each village that is deemed "sensitive" have been made special police officers for the occasion, with all powers that an officer enjoys. Plain clothes commando units are posted in railway stations and city bus depots.

Mr Lekhi thinks such defensive action is not enough. "My own thinking is that we should destroy more terrorist bases... We successfully busted one of them on September 12 and you may have news again soon," he said. "An insurgent or a terrorist without a base is useless, he is always on the run and thus becomes ineffective," he added. He says he is unconcerned about his own safety. But seven policemen cradling Sten guns guard their chief, who has arrested more than 300 people since swoops on militants began two weeks ago.

Darshan Singh, spokesman for the militant wing of the Sikh Akali Dal political party, acknowledges the effectiveness of the raids. "The police have unleashed a reign of terror here... they have arrested at least 1,200 members of our party," he said. Some 200 party officials and 1,000 ordinary members had gone underground to escape the raids, he added. The militant wing, led by Joginder Singh, has said opposition to the polls should be peaceful but observers here are expecting trouble nonetheless. "It is not an election, but a farce," said Mr Darshan Singh, echoing the militant line.

Both the moderate faction of the Akali Dal and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party, front-runners in the elections, say the polls will end the bloodshed. "I will not bet a fig on that, we will see more blood", said a resident.

Schools, Liquor Shops Closed

NC211745 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Sept 21 (AFP) — The Punjab Administration today ordered the closure of schools, colleges and liquor shops in most towns in the northern Indian state as part of tight security measures in the run-up to elections on Wednesday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The authorities also announced a ban on the storage of liquor, PTI said from the state capital Chandigarh, quoting official information.

The bans would be in force until Thursday, the day after elections for the 117-strong State Legislative Assembly and for the Punjab's 13 seats in the Federal Parliament's Lower House.

Akali Dal's Barnala Warns Militants

BK201609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] The acting president of the Akali Dal, Mr S.S. Barnala, has said that his party will pursue the policy of Hindu-Sikh unity as laid down by late Harchand Singh Longowal. He was addressing a public meeting at Dharampur near Moga. Mr Barnala also warned the Akali rebels that they will be expelled from the party if they do not withdraw from the contest in favor of official candidates.

Addressing a public meeting at Samana near Patiala, the Akali Dal leader, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, said that the party stands for eliminating terrorism and maintaining a peaceful atmosphere in Punjab.

Strike Over Foreign Nationals Ends in Meghalaya

BK201607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] The 12-hour Meghalaya bundh [strike] called by the All Meghalaya Students Union ended peacefully at 1600 today. The bundh was called to demand solution to the foreign nationals issue in the state. Shops and commercial establishments remained closed and taxis and other vehicles were off the road in Shillong and Tura. Attendence in government offices was below normal and educational institutions throughout the state remained closed.

AFP: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Resigns

HK230752 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 23 (AFP) — The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh State, N.D. Tiwari, resigned today amid reports that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi might take him into the federal cabinet.

Mr. Tiwari told a press conference in the state capital Lucknow, that he had submitted his resignation to the govenror after contacting Mr. Gandhi, who also heads the ruling Congress Party, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. Mr. Tiwari, who became chief minister in August 1984, gave no reason for his resignation. PTI, quoting authoritative sources, said he would be taken into the federal cabinet in New Delhi.

Reports have appeared in the local press that Mr. Gandhi would reshuffle his cabinet soon after the Punjab state elections on

Wednesday. Congress Party sources in Delhi said the resignation had come as a surprise to them.

A close aide of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Mr. Tiwari played a prominent role in the last general election which gave the Congress Party an overwhelming majority in the central parliament. Uttar Pradesh, with a population of over 100 million is India's largest state.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Arrives in Delhi
BK210934 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, arrived in New Delhi today for discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr Romesh Bhandari. They will be discussing matters relating to the summit meeting of the leaders of the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC].

Mr Chowdhury is carrying an invitation from President General Ershad for the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for the summit to be held in Dhaka in December. Mr Chowdhury will also be visiting other countries of the SARC as a special envoy of Gen Ershad.

Nepalese King Concludes State Visit, Departs
BK200939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal were given a warm send-off when they left New Delhi this morning for Katmandu after a 3-day official visit to India. They were seen off at the airport among others by the president, Giani Zail Singh; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and a number of top civil and military officials.

Radio Denies Reports of Fighting With India

BK211718 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1714 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense in Rawalpindi has strongly contradicted press reports emanating from the Indian sources about the alleged fighting between Pakistani and Indian troops in the Siachen Glacier area. The spokesman termed these reports as highly mischievous and totally baseless and said that there has recently been neither any fighting in the area nor any casualties. He said the Siachen Glacier area is as normal as before.

Ziaul Haq Says Martial Law To Be Lifted by 31 Dec

BK211608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that martial law will be lifted from the country on a date no later than that announced by the prime minister. Talking to newsmen in Ghoragali this afternoon, he said he is committed to fulfilling the promise made by the prime minister. The president said it is his hope that a consensus will be reached between two groups in the National Assembly on the eighth constitution amendment bill. If not, he himself will take certain measures to ensure that martial law is lifted by 31 December this year. Referring to his talks with the independent group [in the National Assembly], he said they have been convinced on two points. However, the prime minister will announce the formation of a joint committee comprising members and ministers belonging to the government and independent groups to arrive at a consensus regarding the eighth constitution amendment bill. He expressed the hope that the said committee will submit its report to the prime minister in a day or two.

In reply to a question, the president said since the prime minister is the head of government, it has been his endeavor to give maximum media coverage to him and to the members of the National Assembly and the Senate. He said he keeps himself away from politics because he is the constitutional head.

About the uncertainty prevailing in certain quarters regarding the term of the National Assembly, the president categorically stated that the Assembly will complete its stipulated term of 5 years.

Replying to a question about the revival of political parties, the president said if the National Assembly passes the Political Parties Act, then there will be political parties both within and outside the National Assembly. In reply to another question, he said there will be no reduction in the powers of the province and the governors will be the constitutional heads of the provinces. He said he is not concealing anything in this regard and that he wants to do only what is best for the country.

About the role of the press during the current transition period, the president regretted that the attitude of certain newspapers is not responsible. He said the country is passing through a transition period before the establishment of a total civilian government. Therefore, he observed, the press should play a responsible and more positive role so that they can pass through this period smoothly.

The president categorically stated that the country is not faced with any crisis and there should be no doubts and suspicions in this regard.

Earlier, the president addressed the 125th founding anniversary function of Lawrence College, Ghoragali. He said the present government is not only paying attention to Islamic and general education, but also stressing scientific and technical education. He called upon all sections of society to work unitedly to eradicate illiteracy from the country.

Reportage on Activities on Eighth Admendment Bill

Justice Minister Comments

BK190207 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Sep 85

[Excerpt] The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, has said the government is trying to build a consensus among all members of the National Assembly for the adoption of the Constitution eighth amendment bill [seeking to legalize martial law actions].

He told newsmen in Islamabad tonight that it has been the endeavor of the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, to have consensus of members on all important matters in the larger interest of the nation. He said with this in the view, a dialogue with the members of the independent group in the National Assembly was continuing. He said the prime minister had further discussions today with these members and the process would continue.

The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs emphasized that the priority with the government was that martial law must be lifted within the stipulated time. He emphasized that unless martial law is lifted, there can neither be effective civilian government nor effective implementation of Constitution and restoration of democracy. He said the National Assembly was, therefore, required to take all necessary steps for the lifting of martial law and it should not go down in history as having failed to fulfill its responsibilities in this connection.

He emphasized that the validation of laws being sought through the Constitution eighth amendment bill was the first essential step for the lifting of martial law. It was not an extraordinary, new measure and such a course had always been resorted to before lifting martial law in the past.

There was procedural and legal debate about the taking up of the Constitution eighth amendment bill in the National Assembly this evening. As the house reassembled after maghreb [evening] prayers, Haji Saifullah moved a motion that the bill should be referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology, saying it was repugnant to the injunctions of Islam. A similar motion was moved by Mr Mumtaz Ahmad Taran.

The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, opposing the motion, said the government also did not want to commit any violation of the injunctions of Islam. Therefore, he wanted to examine all the laws to satisfy himself that no law was repugnant to the injunctions of Islam. He said he would need a couple of days for this purpose. In the meantime, he maintained discussion on the bill could proceed. Thereupon, the speaker, Syed Fakhr Imam, decided that the two motions would stand pending. Haji Saifullah then proposed another motion calling for circulation of the bill for eliciting public opinion by the 31st of next month. Sheikh Rashid Ahmad also tabled an identical motion.

Assembly Rejects Motions

BK191234 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Sep 85

[Excerpt] The National Assembly today rejected two motions for circulation of the constitution eighth amendment bill for eliciting public opinion. These motions, which were earlier held in order by the speaker, were moved by Haji Saifullah Khan and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, and were debated upon for about 2 hours.

During the discussion, only the movers spoke at length. This followed a closure motion by Chaudhury Shafat Ahmed Khan, who maintained that sufficient discussions had taken place and requested the speaker to put the question before the house for closing of the debate. Consequently, when the motions were put to the house, these were rejected by the members with an overwhelming majority. The house was then adjourned to meet on Saturday [21 September] afternoon.

Minister on Bill's Objective

BK200554 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Sep 85

[Text] The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, has said efforts to build up a concensus in the National Assembly for the passage of the Constitution eighth amendment bill would continue as the government wants to take along all sections of the house.

He told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that the main objective underlying the Constitution eighth amendment bill is to create conditions for the lifting of martial law by the 31st of December deadline announced by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo. With the passage of this bill, there would be no impediment in the lifting of martial law which was the desire of all the members of the National Assembly.

He dispelled the impression being created in certain quarters that the laws being validated under the Constitution eighth amendment bill would become part of the Constitution. He emphasized that it was not so. Only the acts done since the imposition of martial law are being validated to avoid uncertainty. He said such provisions were there in the Constitution previously when martial laws were lifted. He said about the half of the laws made during martial law would automatically lapse on the lifting of martial law.

As for the provision of validating the laws that might be made before the lifting of martial law, the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs categorically stated that no further laws would be made under martial law. It is the policy of the government to legislate through the National Assembly. He pointed out that no legislation has been enforced through martial law during the last 6 months of the present civilian government. In reply to a question, he said with the exception of those laws which affect the Constitution, all other laws could be amended by a parliament by a simple majority.

Junejo Appoints Review Committee

BK210545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has constituted a small committee of the government's parliamentary group to review the recommendations of the Khwaja Safdar committee in detail to create total accord on this bill. This committee will also liaise with the 7-member committee set up by the independent parliamentary group. Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Hamid Nasir Chadha told newsmen after the meeting of the government's parliamentary group in Rawalpindi last night. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq also participated in the meeting.

Earlier, the president met with the independent parliamentary group's members for 3 and 1/2 hours and heard their views with full attention and sympathy. The information minister said that about 190 members participated in the government's parliamentary group meeting, in which they freely expressed their opinions. The president heard the views of each member with extreme patience. It was decided at the meeting to devote more attention to the proposals of the Khwaja Safdar committee on the Constitution eighth amendment bill.

Therefore, a small committee has been set up to review the recommendations in detail. He said there is total accord with the government's parliamentary group on this bill. All the members who participated in the meeting assured the government of their total cooperation in this regard. They stressed the point that despite its majority, the government does not want to force its opinions on anybody, although the government has the support of more than two-thirds of the members to pass this bill. He said the talks with the independent group are being conducted with the spirit of creating accord. He said that if the independent group exercises a reasonable attitude, there will be an accord soon.

The information and broadcasting minister said there were two prominent spokesmen of the 20-member independent gorup that met with the president — Haji Saifullah and Syed Asad Gilani, a representative of the banned Jamiat-i-Islami group in the National Assembly. [as heard] He said the talks were not yet complete and it was agreed that there is a possibility of more talks. He did not dismiss the possibility of further meetings of the president and prime minister with the independent group. He said the discussion on the bill will continue in the house, while negotiations between the government's parliamentary group and

the independent parliamentary group will continue outside the house.

'Nongovernment' Committee Named

BK220428 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Federal Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Iqbal Ahmad Khan told the National Assembly yesterday evening that a nongovernmental committee has been formed to gain a consensus on the constitution eighth amendment bill. This committee will review proposals by various members and groups in the house to dispel doubts and suspicious on this bill and to consider useful proposals appropriately. The federal minister said it will not be proper to continue discussing the bill in the house until we reach a reasonable stage. He said Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo sincerely desires a unanimous decision in the assembly. He added that the aim of presenting the present bill in the house is to give final shape to legal and constitutional measures expeditiously in order to lift martial law from the country. The prime minister's desire is not to take any hasty steps and to fully honor the opnions of all the members of the house.

Later, the federal minister told the newsmen that he will chair this committee, which will consist of the following members: Education Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, Abdul Hamid Jatoi, Haji Yunus Ilahi, Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan, and Syed Asad Gilani. He said the objective of the committee is to make concerted efforts toward lifting martial law and to devise legal and constitutional arrangements for this purpose.

MASHRIQ Welcomes Binational Visit of U.S. Officials

GF200958 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 16 Sep 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Efforts to Bridge Strained Relations"]

[Text] The United States is sending two high ranking officials to India and Pakistan to convey to these two governments the concern of the U.S. Government over the tension that exists in this region. This visit will last from Sunday to Thursday. The officials will try to persuade both countries to abide by the principle of nonproliferation of nuclear arms. In fact, the United States has openly accepted Pakistan's assurance in this respect that it will not make nuclear weapons. However, in view of the hue and cry raised by India over this issue, the United States is now trying to make Pakistan and India sign an agreement between them that should convince them that neither is manufacturing nuclear arms.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has several times and of its own accord offered to India to sign a pact that would halt the nuclear arms race in this region. Now, if the American officials succeed in persuading India to sign such a pact, Pakistan would welcome it. Pakistan has no interest in making nuclear arms; it only wants the Western countries to give it the necessary implements for maintaining its nuclear powered electricity generating stations. If an agreement is reached between India and Pakistan that they will not make nuclear weapons, it will make it easier for Pakistan to obtain the necessary items from Western countries for its peaceful nuclear program.

However, the question is how will India react to such a proposal. If, as usual, it sticks to its past attitude of blaming Pakistan and, under the cover of this excuse continues to follow its own program of manufacturing nuclear arms, then the situation will become very serious. This region is already in a state of tension, and India's obstinacy will only add to it. If, therefore, the United States feels concerned over the existing tension in the region, it should do all it can to put pressure on India to come to an agreement with Pakistan on the question of nuclear weapons. India is impatient to receive defense technology from the United States.

Delhi: Police Surround Opposition Leaders Homes

BK231250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] In Pakistan, police are reported to have surrounded the houses of opposition leaders in Lahore in a bid to prevent them from attending a meeting today of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. The meeting was called to discuss the proposed legislation aimed at giving President Zia's regime legitimacy for its actions under martial law. Police have also arrested one leader of the movement.

Differences Arise in Opposition Party Ranks

GF201918 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi, Sept 15: The high command of the Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP] has decided to cancel the membership of all such party leaders who have links with the Sindhi-Baluch-Pakhtoon Front (SBPF) unless they announce their dissociation from the Front within thirty days.

The NWFP chief of the party, Aftab Ahmad Sherpao, told newsmen on Sunday at the residence of the Party's Secretary-General, Mr. Tikka Khan, that the party leadership had unanimously decided to expel certain leaders from the party if they did not dissociate themselves from the SBPF within a month of this announcement.

This decision was not the result of any pressure or a deal with any quarter, the PPP leader said. He added that the formation of such a Front seeking confederation was contrary to party policy.

Mr. Sherpao did not reveal the names or number of PPP men who have links with the Front.

He disclosed that Ms Benazir Bhutto had empowered the party leadership to settle the SBPF issue by issuing the necessary warning.

Mr Sherpao said that according to the party manifesto, no member can simultaneously hold membership of another political organisation.

Answering a question, Mr Sherpao said the PPP leadership did not consider the steps or decisions taken by rulers during the past eight years to be of any legal standing.

Baluchi Leader Says Tribals Will Defend Nation

BK191055 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Sep 85

[Text] A veteran leader of Baluchistan, Malik Abdul Hai, has said the tribal people played an important role in the movement for Pakistan and will not flinch from any sacrifices in safeguarding the security of the country.

In an interview with Radio Pakistan, Quetta, he said the tribals — who have made great sacrifices for the defense and security of Pakistan — will shed their last drop of blood in future as well. He said the tribals are making progress with the help of the development programs launched by the present government.

Opposition Leader on Talks With Soviet Officials

GF201930 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Sep 85 p 10

[Excerpt] Karachi, Sept 16: Mir Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, President of the banned Pakistan National Party, [PNP] has said that he did not meet Communist Party leader Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev during his 50-day stay in the Soviet Union.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival at the Karachi airport on Monday morning after attending the 13th International Youth Festival in Moscow as a guest of honour, Mr. Bizenjo said he, however, had meetings with other Soviet leaders and discussed matters of mutual interest with them.

When asked about any possible change he noticed in the attitude of the Soviet leaders towards the Afghanistan problem, he said the Soviet Union wanted Pakistan to settle its issues with Afghanistan directly. He said the Soviets were concerned over outside interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

He ruled out the possibility of Soviet Union interfering in the bilateral problems of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and said that the Soviet Union could underwrite a peace plan if the two countries reached an accord. He said the Soviet Union could also guarantee peace if outside interference in Afghanistan stopped.

The other course was to fight the Soviets out of Afghanistan, he added.

To some extent it was true that there were some disturbances in Afghanistan and whatever was published in the Pakistani newspapers was partly correct, he said.

He was of the opinion that efforts were being made constantly to destabilise the situation there, but it was equally incorrect to say that the entire Soviet military contingents or the Afghan Government troops were eliminated by the guerillas.

To another question, he said the Soviet leaders complained that Pakistan's territories were allegedly being used against Afghanistan.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Governor's House in Qandahar

BK210628 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin attacked the governor's house ["governor's house" in English] in Qandahar on 12 September, killing eight security guards and badly damaging part of the house with rockets. Another report says mujahidin attacked a military convoy near Telbukhtran subdivision on 7 September killing 13 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and damaging a tank.

NEPAL

King, Queen Return From Trip Abroad 20 Sep

BK201517 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Their Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah were accorded a warm and enthusiastic welcome on their majesties return to Katmandu this afternoon at the end of their state visits to Australia and official and unofficial visits to some other friendly countries. Their majesties were warmly welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah when their majesties alighted from the special aircraft at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

SRI LANKA

ENLF Accepts Monitoring Proposal With Conditions

NC201746 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 20 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla leaders have agreed to the island government's proposal for monitoring a new ceasefire by a multi-racial citizens committee, but have put forward strict conditions to ensure its effective implementation, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The new ceasefire was announced unilaterally by the government this week as an earlier one was to expire.

One of the conditions includes the withdrawal of British "SAS" trained mercenaries and agents from Israeli intelligence from Sri Lanka, PTI said.

The Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) leaders, in their discussions here with Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, reiterated their demand for an impartial outside agency such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to monitor a ceasefire on a permanent basis, PTI added.

Monitoring by a citizens committee could be accepted only as part of an interim ceasefire arrangement, PTI quoted the ENLF leaders as saying. The ENLF told Indian officials that they did not have confidence in the citizens committee arrangement for permanently monitoring a truce because the Sri Lankan Government would apply pressure on it.

India, which is trying to broker a peace agreement, is now awaiting Sri Lanka's response to these and other stiff conditions which also included release of all political detainees and lifting of curfew in Tamil areas.

The militants also told the Sri Lanka Government that as long as they were called "separatist terrorists" they would call the government the "neo-fascist state of Sri Lanka", PTI said.

The militants demanded that the Sri Lankan Government should stop sending civilians for arms training in Pakistan, and said the Sri Lankan Government's demand for a bar on fresh induction of arms and ammunition and men in Tamil areas should equally apply to the security forces.

The ENLF leaders said the security forces should not carry arms on outings like shopping during non-duty hours.

The guerrilla leaders also said the security forces must cease attacks and killings of civilians and former Tamil members of Parliament.

The Tamil militants conditions follow the Sri Lankan Government's demand for an assurance from the guerrilla leaders' that they would have to observe certain conditions if the ceasefire was to be operative.

These included the induction of arms and men from outside, the carrying of arms, land mine attacks and attacks against civilians.

Security Council To Discuss Team

HK230756 Hong Kong AFP in English 0653 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] Colombo, Sept 23 (AFP) — The National Security Council was today to discuss setting up a three-member multi-racial group to monitor the ceasefire between security forces and Tamil militant groups, informed sources said.

Security sources reported meanwhile that militants shot dead two people at the weekend on the east coast.

The ceasefire monitoring team now being mentioned in government circles consists of one Sinhalese, one Tamil and a Muslim.

The government was not expected to announce the team until the finalisation of details such as group's location, how it would reach troubled areas and how it would assess ceasefire violations, sources said.

Observers said it would be difficult for the monitoring group to operate out of Colombo when the trouble spots were likely to be in the Northern and Eastern Provinces where Tamil militants are demanding a separate state.

This weekend's two killings took place in Nilaweli, north of the east coast port of Trincomalee, security sources said.

The bodies of a man and a woman were placed in a cart and sent to the village on Saturday night, the sources said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killings but the sources believed the victims might have been suspected by guerrillas of being informants.

Both the government and the separatists have charged each other with violating the first ceasefire which was declared June 18 and ended Wednesday.

The government unilaterally announced another ceasefire Monday but it rejected militant groups' demand that international observers monitor it and proposed instead a local monitoring group.

Meanwhile an influential section of Buddhist monks has written to Mr Jayewardene, opposing some of the proposals reportedly contained in a working paper which is to be the basws for negotiations with six Tamil groups.

In a memorandum the monks expressed concern over proposals which they said allowed new provincial councils the right to set up provincial police forces and permitted these councils to exercise power over coastal administration.

Delhi: Cease-Fire Observers To Be Named
BK210324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has announced that it will appoint a team of observers to supervise the cease-fire between security forces and militants. The announcement was made in Sri Lankan parliament by the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali. A state controlled newspaper in Colombo said the monitors will comprise two Sinhalese and two Tamils.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is contemplating to declare its eastern territorial waters as a prohibited zone. A government official said in Trincomalee that regulations to this effect are being prepared. He said the forest reserves and government lands will also be declared prohibited zones and any intruder will risk shooting by the security forces. The residents of these zones will be issued special passes.

Reports from Colombo say several bodies have been found in the forest in Sri Lanka's northern Vavuniya District. A government spokesman said in Colombo the bodies were found during operations by security forces in the forest.

Delhi: Colombo Denies Delhi Radio Report
BK211614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report from Colombo says that 15 Tamils were killed and 10 injured when unidentified persons opened fire at (Kalvettu) in eastern Amparai district last night. The victims included women and children.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi has said there is no truth in an agency report that the Sri Lankan Government is contemplating to declare its territorial waters as the prohibitory zone. In a press release, it said the only prohibited zone extends to certain areas from Mullaittivu to Mannar along the northeastern, northern, and western coasts and certain water areas as declared by a notification last year.

Security Sources say Nilaveli free of Terrorists
BK191049 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Sep 85

[Text]Security sources told LANKAPUWATH that the popular beach resort of Nilaveli in Trincomalee has been cleared of Tamil Terrorists by security forces. The sources said that the security forces were in command after a series of operations against the terrorists, who have now fled the area.

AFP Report
HK220747 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 22 Sep 85

[By Neville de Silva]
[Text]Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, Sept 22 (AFP)— Nothing moved around the Tamil separatist guerrilla base near the Nilaweli resort save the ocean waves exhausting themselves on beaches once filled with tourists.

A Sri Lankan Army officer shifted his gun and pointed out of the open door of a new Bell 212 helicopter as it dipped sharply over the Indian Ocean coastline near this port city in the east of Sri Lanka.

"That is Lorina Inn. That is where the terrorists had their base. They had booby-trapped two cellars. But we spotted it and blew them up."

He smiled. He was pointing to a base of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), one of the main Tamil separatist guerrilla groups fighting a bloody campaign for a separate state in the largely Tamil north and east.

The base was raided on Monday and 32 guerrillas were killed and at least 27 hardcore separatists captured. The raid coincided with a government announcement that it would extend a ceasefire called to facilitate peace talks between Tamil separatists and government representatives.

A column of smoke still curled upwards from the nearby brush where soldiers had set fire to fuel dumps they had unearthed during the 12-hour raid.

Brigadier Nanda de Silva, a special operations commander who led the raid on the base, admitted that one woman, presumably a civilian, had been killed in the fighting.

Brig. De Silva said that the woman had been caught in crossfire.

"The soldiers held their fire for two and a half hours so that any civilians who might have also gone into hiding could get out," he said.

"During this time we were being fired at. But the instructions were very clear. No women and children were to be hurt."

Commodore Justin Jayasuriya, a co-ordinating officer, said that for several months the guerrillas had been building up their strength north and south of Trincomalee.

Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunge, head of the Joint Operations Command, said that until recently the guerrillas had totally dominated the area.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent was helicoptered from the China Bay Air Force Base near here to the

Trincomalee Naval Headquarters, where he was allowed to question about 50 people rounded up during Monday's raid.

Many insisted that they were not separatists. They said they had sought refuge in makeshift camps at schools, rice mills and churches in Nilaweli village after leaving their own homes.

They said that the government troops had come in and asked them to surrender, and that they had done so because they were not involved in guerrilla activities.

The Nilaweli Hotel complex, once a bustling beach resort, seemed completely deserted from the air. And sources here said that the resort, with nearly 50 hotels and guest houses, was indeed totally deserted.

With tourists discouraged from visiting the troubled area and hotels putting up their shutters, many civilians are without jobs. Guerrillas have damaged or blown up hotels, driving away even local customers and throwing ancillary services out of gear, local residents said.

A government senior administrator said that earlier the guerrillas had been moving about the area freely, carrying their weapons: "They were threatening and frightening the people, demanding money and goods. There was no civil administration. "But now the people are happy and they are to hold a meeting to thank the forces and ask the terrorists to go away."

Lt. Gen. Ranatunge said that Monday's raid had "destabilised terrorists operating in and around Trincomalee."

And Army Commander Major General Nalin Seneviratne said that his troops would continue flushing-out operations. From the helicopter he pointed to thickets where government forces believed guerrillas were still hiding.

The helicopter did not fly too low for fear of ground fire, and the two gunners kept their eyes peeled as it flew over the waters of Trincomalee's natural habour, which guerrillas have used to escape to southern India and to return to Sri Lanka for operations.

Security Forces Raid Terrorist Camp in Amparai

BK211346 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Security forces raided a terrorist camp located between Mangala Oya and (Kuhunagala) in the Amparai District yesterday. According to the national news agency, LANKAPUWATH, the raid has been made on receipt of information. When the forces were approaching the terrorist camp, the terrorists had opened fire. The troops returned the fire, causing the terrorists to flee taking their wounded along with them. Security forces suffered one casualty.

Khamene'i Threatens To Close Strait to Oil Exporters

LD221024 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22 IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i warned here Sunday [22 September] that if Iraqi attacks on Iran's oil installations led to a halt in the Islamic Republic's oil exports, "we will, with all power, close the Strait of Hormuz to all the oil exporting countries in the region."

Speaking at a ceremony at Azadi Square here, marking the first day of the war week (Sept. 22-28), the head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), further stated that Iran's response to Iraqi attacks on oil installations in the Persian Gulf, "will be crushing blows on economic installations in Iraq." This response, the president said, will continue as long as "our oil export has not been jeopardized."

He said the Islamic Republic had not welcomed tension in the sea but that the regional states should know that "we will not remain silent vis-a-vis Iraq's mischevious acts in the Persian Gulf."

On "peace efforts" and the propaganda ballyhoo launched in favor of the Baghdad regime by its arrogant supporters, the president stated that they apparently utter peace but their hearts are filled with a deep-seated ill will against the Islamic Republic. "Our people and our Armed Forces have realised this very well," Khamene'i said.

He said the enemies were looking for any opportunity to inflict their blow on the revolution. The president said the world should know that Iran's emphasis on the continuation of the war did not mean that "we are war-mongers" but that "our people know that the slogan of peace is a dirty slogan in the hands of our enemies." He said however that the Islamic Republic will have no alternative but to continue the war until ultimate victory. "The fate of the Iranian nation and its independence depend on this war," he pointed out. Addressing the countries backing the Baghdad regime in its war of aggression against Iran, the SDC chief said "if you seek an end to the war, you must stop your aids to the Iraqi regime and pressure the aggressor."

Navy Seizes Danish Ship; Cargo Inspected

LD221040 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22 IRNA — A Danish ship "with suspected Iraqi-bound cargo" was seized by the Islamic Republic Navy in the Persian Gulf and led to a southern Iranian port. Military sources told IRNA Sunday [22 September] that the Danish ship *Arnold Marsk* had been identified in the Strait of Hormuz and was now being inspected by Navy forces in one of the southern ports of the country.

Further Details

GF221044 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] The naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday detained a Danish ship carrying suspicious cargo. The ship was guided to one of our ports on the Persian Gulf. A report by IRNA indicates that the Danish ship *Arnold Marsk*, which was carrying cargo to Kuwait and was stopped at the Strait of Hormuz, is currently being searched by personnel of the naval forces in an Iranian port.

Military Materiel Found

LD231122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] In preliminary searches carried out on the siezed Danish ship, military emblems were found on most of the cargo. According to the bill of lading -- which the ship's captain refused at the outset to hand over to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy personnel -- some of the cargo is bound for Iraq.

A Navy spokesman told an IRNA correspondent that because the 40,000-metric-ton ship, *Arnold Marsk*, carries more than 1,000 containers, Navy personnel have not yet been able to complete their preliminary search. However, the contents of those containers inspected revealed a considerable quantity of military equipment and machinery destined for Iraq.

He added: In the implementation of the decisive policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to confiscate military cargo bound for Iraq and whatever cargo improving the combat strength of the regime ruling over that country, once a thorough search is made, any cargo covered by these criteria will be confiscated. The *Arnold Marsk* was loaded in Singapore and was supposed to go to Kuwait via Al-Dammam. From there some of the cargo was to be delivered to the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Navy Searches Japanese Container Ship in Gulf of Oman

OW201341 Tokyo KYODO in English 0733 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 20 KYODO — Iranian naval men boarded and searched a Japanese container ship in the Gulf of Oman Friday morning (local time), but details of the incident are not yet available.

The 23,299-gross-ton *Togo Maru*, owned by the Tokyo-based Yamashita-Shinnihon Steamship Co., sent an emergency radio report to the company shortly after noon (Japan time), saying that Iranian soldiers were boarding it. The message said the ship was cruising about 90 kilometers south of the Hormuz Strait. The radio message stopped after giving that information, company officials said.

The company is requesting investigation by related offices, fearing that the containership might have been seized by the Iranian Navy.

Naval Commander on Inspection of Ships in Gulf

GF220700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] In the past few days, 42 commercial vessels suspected of carrying cargo for the Iraqi regime have been questioned,

inspected, or seized by commando units of the Navy. During the period from the night before last until yesterday, two vessels, one Cypriot and one Japanese, were examined and some consignments of goods destined for Iraq in the Japanese ship were confiscated. This was stated by the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Captain Malekzadegan] in an interview with an IRNA correspondent in connection with war week, while explaining the role of the Navy in the imposed war.

He then elaborated on the military strength of this force in safeguarding the waters of the Islamic Republic and said: In view of the geographical position of the enemy in the imposed war, we have not yet used our heavy military units and our larger logistical battleships. We have saved these armaments — which cannot be found elsewhere in the area — for combating the enemies of Islam. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy has hindered the movements of the enemy in the area and has been responsible for the destruction of their military ships, thus depriving the enemy from using his own important oil installations. Today, he cannot export even one drop of oil from the Persian Gulf.

Referring to claims by the Iraqi regime that they have hit naval units of the Islamic Republic, he said: In view of the fact that ships have international communications equipment and can radio messages to any part of the world, such attacks would have been reported by international shipping if the Iraqi allegations were true.

In reply to the propaganda of oppression claiming the Islamic Republic is not capable of closing down the Strait of Hormuz, Captain Malekzadegan said: We do not wish to endanger the safety of the area and we have preserved this safety so far. But, as the Islamic Republic's authorities have reiterated from time to time, if the Persian Gulf cannot be used by us, it will not be used by any other country. If necessary, we shall prove this in practice.

The commander of the Navy alluded to the checking and seizure of 42 vessels by naval forces in the past few days and said: We do not wish to disrupt international maritime routes, but it is our right to examine vessels or check them on the basis of our information. Of course, the initial inspection takes place in international waters. If the cargo appears suspicious, the ship is led to our ports and only that Iraq-destined cargo is removed.

In conclusion, he added: We shall definitely continue to inspect suspicious vessels. We hope that some of the countries which provide port facilities and the freedom to use their waters to vessels carrying goods for Iraq will realize that this is tantamount to direct interference in our war with the Iraqi regime. Therefore, It is our undisputed right to prevent goods which increase the military strength of our enemy from reaching Iraq.

Beirut Embassy Warns Gulf States

LD212004 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA — The determination of Iranian people for continuing their defensive war until overthrow of the aggressor (Iraqi regime) was reiterated in a statement released here Saturday by the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Beirut on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war.

Addressing Muslims and freedom strugglers in the world, the statement described the Iraqi aggression as one of the worst plots ever hatched by the enemies of Islam against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Iran's stance vis-a-vis neighbouring states in the Persian Gulf, the statement said that since a long time ago, the Islamic Republic had warned the Persian Gulf states to avoid aiding Iraqi regime if they wanted the war to end soon.

The communique reiterated that the Islamic Republic has always been concerned about peace and stability in the region and about peaceful coexistence with its neighbours but that the behavior of the neighboring governments which apparently claim to be neutral in the war but aid Iraqi Ba'thists secretly are against the spirit of goodneighbourly relations.

The statement concluded that the Arab world would be far better advised to expoit its resources for liberating Al-Qods rather than help the Iraqi regime.

Lloyds Cited on Damage to Khark Oil Complex

JN211314 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] The Iranian oil complex at Khark Island might have completely stopped operating following last Thursday's Iraqi raids. Disclosing this in its weekly pamphlet, the British shipping insurance company Lloyds says that the complex's wing that receives 500,000-ton tankers has been destroyed and that the sea island [as heard] area on the western bank of the complex may not be serviceable. The pamphlet says that damage seems to be on a scale that would sharply limit Iran's capacity to export oil.

It is worth noting that 90 percent of Iranian oil exports, which amount to 1.5 million barrels per day, passes through the Khark complex. Experts say that supertankers are no longer able to take oil from the island either due to the damage to the complex or because a Korean oil tanker was sunk near the sea island dock last Thursday.

Iran, for its part, has not admitted that Khark was damaged. An Iranian National Oil Company spokesman denied reports that the sea island was destroyed after an Iraqi raid, adding that Iranian oil exports are continuing in a normal, regular manner.

Khark Reportedly Free of Wrecks

GF230630 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 23 Sep p 1

[Excerpt] The Korean supertanker hit during Iraqi air attacks on Khark Island has been beached on the Iranian mainland. The 224,841 tonne *Son Bong* was towed to the mainland after being set on fire while loading at Khark's Sea Island terminal on the exposed western shore. The supertanker was fully laden when the attack took place on Thursday and initial reports said she had been sunk alongside her berth. But it is now believed that the

terminal is free of wrecks and according to Gulf shipping sources could soon be back in operation.

The sources said the *Son Bong's* cargo of crude oil would be pumped off and if the supertanker was not too badly damaged she could be refloated.

Other sources disagreed with statements alleging that Iran's operations at Sirri Island were virtually closed due to the shortage of crude from Khark Island. "As far as we know Sirri is operating normally," said one, who did not wish to be identified. The Sirri Island shuttle was organised by Iran in the wake of Iraqi attacks on large tankers operating to Khark Island.

War Information Spokesman Denies DC-8 Incident

LD201849 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Imperialism, Arab reaction and Zionism have launched a joint conspiracy of spreading misinformation alleging secret Iranian arms deals with the Zionist regime. The conspiracy is aimed at covering up the shame of Arab reaction's contacts with the usurping regime of Qods [Jerusalem], to malign Iran and to erode the continuous opposition of Islamic revolution to the Zionist state's existence.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) denounced the allegations of news imperialism and especially the Zionist regime that an American built airplane from Iran had flown to Israel as ludicrous.

He said the terrorists ruling over the occupied Palestine are well aware of the hatred of Muslims and world revolutionaries of the Zionists so these media are doing their best to disrepute the Islamic revolution of Iran, which is, the most important element for mobilising world Muslims against Israel. He said those who perpetuate this policy of misinformation against Iran are in total harmony with the world imperialism and its subservients in the region, that is, the press of the Arab reactionary countries.

He added that when the West itself claims Iran had been able to procure its needed arms from the U.S. military by taking advantage of the moral corruption and materialism in the U.S. and through bribing American officials, it is ridiculous for Iran to dishonor itself by dealing with Israeli peddlers who cannot make the slightest move without America's permission.

Referring to the cultural growth of world Muslims the spokesman said that apparently the U.S., Zionist propagators and their reactionary Arab friends think the Muslims are void of any resolution, and that they would believe anything told them without investigating. To this end, they have launched on echoing such slander [as received] in order to deceive world Muslims that Iran is involved in arms deals with Israel and secondly they want to white-wash the shame of the Arab reactionaries' negotiations with the Zionists, which he said, they are forced to do on the orders of the United States.

In conclusion, the spokesman said that the role of a Western news agency established by the Zionists which cooperates with the "Voice of Israel" to create and publish such news is completely clear. It is interesting that this time they have deliberately contrived the story of an American DC airplane which had developed technical difficulties over Turkish skies and was forced to land in Israel, as being an Iranian plane, while Iran does not have airplanes of this kind. And also, if the report is right, with regards to the flight route and the destination of the airplane one should conclude that Iran has become an arms exporter to the Zionist regime and not its customer.

President Views 'Mock' Military Maneuvers 22 Sep

LD222121 Tehran IRNA in English 2015 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i inaugurated a mock "Badar" military maneuvers here Sunday. The ceremony was held on the first day of the war week in which achievements of Iranian Muslim combatants in Badr-Operation conducted in the marshes of Hawr al-Hawizah last winter, were reconstructed. The president in a part of his brief speech said that the scope and breadth acts of self-sacrifices of Iranian Muslim combatants cannot be depicted in mere (?pictures).

Majlis Speaker Says Iraq Unable To Continue War

LD192129 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 19 Sep 85

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, said that the Iraqi regime's political, social, economic and military situation at this stage of the imposed war indicates that Saddam's regime is no longer capable of continuing its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was speaking to a group of Islamic combatants of the Iranian nation who are always present on the scene, said that the present sensitive circumstances -- despite all the futile efforts which are being made to establish a fragile peace -- will not allow the Iraqi regime to remain a threat to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other Muslim nations of the region. He said our sacred defense will continue until the time is ripe for (?carrying out) our all-out operations aimed at toppling the Iraqi regime, and hence, the realization of our righteous demands.

Stresses Defensive Stance

LD211041 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA — Majlis (parliament) speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that those who think Iran has taken an offensive stance, are mistaken. He stressed that although Iranian forces have launched a new series of offensives in the war fronts, they still hold the defensive.

Speaking to a group of IRGC (Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps) members here Thursday, he said that the Iraqi enemy intends to annihilate the Islamic Republic and to this end it has even changed its tactics out of desperation. However, the Majlis speaker stressed, Iraq's arms rivalry and creation of a critical situation in the region, engaging Iran in a long war were all indicative of the Baghdad regime's intentions.

He said that there were evidences that the war would lead to a good point provided that further pressures were exerted on Iraq. He added that the Baghdad regime had lost its control over a major part of northern areas except for roads leading to garrisons. On roads leading to Turkey, Iraq can control only those which are protected by control towers, Rafsanjani noted, adding that Iraq failed to maintain security in the southern and eastern borders.

Iraq which once had more than 35 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserves, has now 40 billion dollars of debts. It is also vulnerable in any part of the battle fronts from Faw to Qader theatre, or even near Baghdad.

The Majlis speaker said that the slighest operation in the fronts would further weaken the morale of Iraqi forces. It is due to these operations that Iraq's creditors are intensifying their pressures and the West is worried about the fate of foreign companies in case a new government comes to power in Iraq. Rafsanjani stressed that the enemy was so desperate that it attacked cities and made the Persian Gulf insecure, even at the cost of the outbreak of the third world war, and would do anything to get rid of its problems.

He called on the IRGC members to brief the nation on war achievements and thus thwart misleading propaganda of the enemy.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon
LD201231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] According to reports of correspondents of the Central News Unit, on the eve of Husayn's Ashura [10 Muharram, the anniversary of martyrdom of Imam Husayn, the third Shi'a imam] and of war week, this week's Friday prayers ceremonies were held in most regions of the country. In Tehran also, these religio-political ceremonies were held at Tehran University with mass participation by the inhabitants under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emani-Kashani.

In his first sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emani-Kashani continued his previous week's discussion about piety as viewed by the noble Koran. Referring to some Koranic verses on piety, he made some remarks and spoke in detail on the great event of Ashura, which is one of the most important movements in the history of monotheism.

In the second sermon of the Friday prayers, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani referred to the imposed war issue and said: Now, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the imposed war, despite the damage and misery inflicted upon us by this war, we shall continue to carry on this war to make the world understand how barbaric are the actions of the Iraqi Zionist regime. It is surprising to see that they still intend to maintain this regime.

Addressing the participants of the Islamic Conference held in Jeddah, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: At the conference you said that the war should be terminated in accordance with Islamic Shari'a. Well, we also agree. The Shari'a of Islam says that the aggressor should be crushed until he submits and surrenders. Will Saddam, who has never stopped committing crimes, submit or surrender? At the conference, you said that you wanted peace and security in the region. Do you know who is responsible for the insecurity in the region? The answer is the Iraqi regime and the occupying Jerusalem regime. As long as these two regimes exist, the region will be insecure. And with the existence of this criminal, we cannot end the war either. It is clear to all powers in the region that they will never be able to restore regional security by safeguarding Saddam.

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for Damascus Talks
LD231056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] Following the escalation of conflict in Tripoli, Lebanon, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, left for Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation. During his visit, apart from holding talks with senior Syrian officials and the warring parties, he will convey to the parties the concern of the Islamic Republic authorities over the prolongation of the conflict.

Tehran Comments on Opening Suez Canal to U.S. Fleet
LD211253 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Unattributed commentary entitled "Betrayal of the People of the Region" from the "Political Commentary" program]

[Excerpts] In an editorial article yesterday, *AL-AHRAM*, which reflects views of the Egyptian Government, announced that the Egyptian Government will permit the U.S. nuclear fleet to pass through the Suez Canal. To announce this at a time when Husni Mubarak, the head of the Egyptian regime, is on his way to the United States and in view of the nature of this regime and its past and present relations with U.S. imperialism on the one hand and current public opinion on nuclear disarmament on the other hand, is particularly important. The attitude of the Egyptian regime and Husni Mubarak is now quite clear to the people of Egypt and the entire people of the Middle East. They have no doubt this is a puppet regime relying on U.S. imperialism.

The trend of events in the region and internal developments of Egypt during the past few years demonstrate that this regime is increasing its services to the masters daily. For its survival, it has no other alternative but stronger dependence on the United States and Reagan's support. The latest proposal, that is permission for the U.S. nuclear fleet to pass through the Suez Canal -- although it brings financial return to the Egyptian regime which would solve some of its problems under the existing economic climate -- would bring greater benefit to the United States. According to the *AL-AHRAM* article, by receiving this permission, the United States would save somewhere around one billion dollars per year in its military expenditure.

On the other hand, this is the first time that a Muslim and Arab country in the Middle East is allowing alien and hostile powers to use its territory carrying nuclear arms -- this at a time when

the Middle East region is viewed as a nuclear-free zone. However, on the basis of the commitments undertaken by the Egyptian regime and the recent political resolution of the Nonaligned Movement of which Egypt is a member, the Egyptian Government cannot be permitted to inmplement such a decision.

Today, nuclear weapons are counted as the most deadly weapons ever made by the mankind in history, and many scholars have in their lengthy reseach works confirmed the horrific and destructive potentials of these weapons against mankind and his environment.

By granting colonial concessions to its masters, the Egyptian regime is trying to put its critical economy in order. By this step it is assisting U.S. imperialism to implement its sinister plots. In addition, such an action would in the long term lead to a greater nuclear presence of the United States in the region, which would provide excuses for other powers to make up for such deeds.

The last word is this: Such actions and treachery against the people of the region can only be neutralized by the relentless struggle of the revolutionaries of the region on one hand, and constant efforts and cooperation among the peace-loving countries of the Middle East on the other.

Tehran Reports Kurdish Operations

GF211527 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries carried out an operation in Chamchamal in [words indistinct] of the governorate of Al-Sulaymaniyah, during which they took control of the main streets and 22 villages in the region. During the operation, the revolutionaries clashed with the Iraqi regime forces, which resulted in the killing or wounding of a number of the Iraqi regime forces.

In another operation, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries attacked with rockets the Security Directorate of the Ba'thist Zionist regime ruling Iraq in Dahuk and inflicted material and human losses upon the regime forces.

Representative to IRGC: Army, IRGC More Powerful

LD201814 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Esfahan, Esfahan Prov., Sept. 20, IRNA — Despite the five-year-old Iraqi-imposed war, Iran has never borrowed a penny and paid back all its foreign debts, the imam's representative in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Hoj. Mahalati said here Thursday.

Speaking on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war, he added that Iran's Army and IRGC are now much more powerful than they were at the beginning of the war, noting "we are not scared of any threats because we have three million trained basij forces".

Referring to the imam's recent order for establishing Navy, air and ground forces divisions at the IRGC, Hoj. Mahalati said that because IRGC is in charge of organizing the popular forces, it will establish Navy and Air Force divisions to let the people be present everywhere side by side the Armed Forces.

On the recent plots of global arrogance in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative said, "we change our methods of fighting if necessary and will make the Persian Gulf a cemetery for enemies of Islam."

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Plane Downed 19 Sep

LD201500 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Iranian ground-to-air fire downed an intruding Iraqi war plane in northwestern fronts at 04:30 hours local time (1300 hours GMT) [times as received] Thursday, an informed military source announced here Friday. The Iraqi plane crashed inside Iraq in the region of Bashkin, opposite Piranshahr, in West Azarbayjan Province, the source said.

Communique No 2,234

LD201726 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Iraq's "Dam of Dukan" power installation was heavily bombarded causing substantial damages, by Iranian jet fighters at 08:27 hours local time (0457 GMT) Friday, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Friday.

Announcing this in its Communique Number 2234, the Joint Staff Command said that an intruding Iraqi war plane was shot down by the Iranian ground-to-air fire in northwestern fronts at 16:30 hours local time (1300 GMT) Thursday, adding that the fate of the pilot of the downed Iraqi plane was unknown.

The command added that on Thursday, Iraqi forces launched a spirited attempt to infiltrate Iranian positions in Bashkin heights in northern fronts but were met with heavy resistance and forced to retreat sustaining considerable casualties and losses.

Exchange of fire continued in northern fronts being more intense in Haj 'Umran and Shiler over the past 24 hours during which a number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and three observation posts and bunkers were destroyed, the communique said.

More than 17 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and two observation posts, two 107 mm missile launchers, one grader and a munitions depot of Iraqi forces were destroyed in central fronts, in artillery exchanges over the past 24 hours, the communique said.

Artillery battle went on in southern fronts being more intense in Majnun Island, the command said. Iran's Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi forces across the Arvand River, killing or wounding a number of them and destroying a few machine-gun positions and observation posts of Iraqi Ba'thists, the communique said.

Iraq's long-range artillery fire hit the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours, wrecking four houses in Abadan, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Industrial Site Attacked

LD201753 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20 IRNA — Jet fighters of the Islamic Republic Air Force attacked an industrial installation 20 miles south of Al-'Amarah in Iraq's Maysan Province, at 14:26 hours (10:56 GMT) Friday. According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, the attack was launched in response to an enemy attack on an "industrial unit" in Iran's Khuzestan Province on Thursday.

Central Fronts Operations

GF200718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced in its communique that our combatants have succeeded in killing or wounding about 20 enemy soldiers and destroying a number of collective bunkers and observation posts, a gun, and an armored car with heavy artillery fire. The report adds that last Wednesday an enemy patrol in the neighborhood of (Kaneshkin) tried to penetrate our forces' position but was intercepted on the spot and forced to flee with several casualties by the gunfire of our combatants.

At the northern and central operation fronts, battles and exchanges of heavy artillery fire between the Islamic combatants and the enemy forces continued sporadically, resulting in losses to the enemy.

Offensive Claims 150 Iraqi Casualties

LD221023 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept. 22 IRNA — At least 150 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the course of a new Iranian offensive started Saturday in the region of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, west of here.

The Islamic combatants of Iran, on the eve of the first day of the War Week (Sept. 22-28), launched an offensive against enemy positions on height 654, in Ahangaran region of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, at 21:00 hours local time (17:30 GMT) Saturday.

After crossing mine-fields, barbed wires, connection canals and explosive traps, the Iranian forces sieged the height from three directions and smashed two companies from one Infantry Mountain Battalion of the 21st Division of the Second Iraqi Corps.

In continuation of this operation Sunday, the Iranian forces attacked the enemy positions destroying 40 bunkers, one large logistic bridge, two artillery batteries, 10 mortar launchers, nine vehicles, and one large munitions depot of the Iraqis. They also seized large quantities of military hardware and ammunitions.

The Islamic combatants returned to their bases victoriously, fully backed by artillery, katyusha, mortar and tank fire of the Iranians. Until 06:00 a.m. local time (02:30 GMT) Sunday, heavy fire exchanges raged between the two sides throughout the operation theatre.

Reports indicate that there are a number of Iraqi officers among the dead.

Engineering units of the Islamic Republic had already defused 600 enemy mines, including anti-tank ones as well as explosive traps on three passes leading to height 654.

The commander of the 10-hour infiltration operation told IRNA that they had achieved their objectives 100 percent.

Communique No 2,235

LD211810 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces in its communique number 2235 published Saturday reported that more than 20 Iraqi troops were killed and 12 bunkers and observation posts of the enemy were destroyed in the border frontlines of Ilam and Bakhtaran where the Iraqi positions were subjected to the heavy artillery fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants.

The communique which coincides with the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war [22 Sept) added that artillery battle and sporadic clashes between patrols of Iranian forces and Iraqi troops occurred in northwestern fronts from Piranshahr, in West Azarbayjan Province to Marivan in Kordestan Province over the past 24 hours. Iraqi Ba'thists suffered casualties and losses and their artillery was silenced, the communique said.

Iran's Muslim combatants opened fire on an Iraqi armoured column opposite the frontlines of Qasr-e Shirin, halting its movement, the command said, adding that Iranian fighters while keeping the upper hand in southern fronts, opened fire on the Iraqi positions, inflicting casualties and damages on them.

An Iraqi motorized column in the opposite region of Faqqeh was hit by Iranian fighters' artillery fire as a result of which enemy troops suffered casualties and losses, the command said.

Iranian combatants shelled an Iraqi patrol unit in Chazzabeh at 02:35 hours local time Friday, inflicting considerable casualties on the patrols and forcing the others to flee, the command said.

Iraqi operations in the border region of Dehloran in Ilam Province were checked by Iran's Gendarmerie forces who had dispatched patrols to the region. They also shelled Iraqi positions across the Arvand River, killing a number of Iraqi troops and destroying some group and individual bunkers, the communique said. The communique concluded that on Friday four houses in Abadan were damaged by Iraq's long-range artillery fire.

Iraq Shells Abadan, Villages

GF221513 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the mercenaries of the Ba'thist Zionist regime of Iraq, in continuation of their criminal acts, over the last 24 hours shelled with heavy long-range artillery residential and non-military areas of the resisting city of Abadan and the villages around it.

As a result of this shelling, three Arab civilians living in the area were wounded and a number of houses damaged.

Communique No 2,236

LD221651 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Sunday that Iran's Muslim combatants subjected Iraqi garrison in Ravanduz to their heavy artillery fire over the past 24 hours, inflicting considerable losses on the garrison.

Announcing this in its Communique Number 2236, the Command said that Iranian combatants held the upper hand in artillery battles near the northwestern fronts.

At 22:30 hours local time (1900 hours GMT) Friday, an Iraqi company backed by artillery fire launched a night operation which was immediately suppressed by Iranian combatants, forcing the enemy to flee at 24 hours local time (20:30 GMT) Friday while suffering casualties, the command said. The command added that Iranian ground-to-air fire repelled all Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of northwestern fronts.

In western fronts, the communique said, movements of Iraqi armoured units and operation of Iraqi patrols in Sumar were checked and came under Iranian fighters' artillery fire as a result of which more than 10 Iraqi troops were killed and 14 bunkers and observation posts of the enemy were destroyed.

Air violations of Iraqi planes in southern fronts were all thwarted by Iranian forces who also opened fire on Iraqi positions in the region, halting Iraqi forces' reinforcement and transport and silencing the enemy artillery, the command said.

The command added that exchange of fire in southern fronts was more intense in Majnun Island. Iran's Gendarmerie combatants exchanged fire with Iraqi forces across the Arvand River, inflicting subtantial casulaties and damage on them.

Iraq's long-range artillery fire wounded three Iranian civilians in Abadan in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours, the communique concluded.

'Large Party' Departs for Fronts

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[Text] Yesterday, on the eve of the imposed war week, a large party from the mobilization forces' bases of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Birjand departed for the battlefronts of light against darkness with a warm send off from their families.

Also, according to the Central News Unit, a group of self-sacrificing brethren from the Labayk ya Khomeyni [We Answer To Your Call Khomeyni] and the renewal of service on the fronts project in Sari, set out for the battlefronts to assist the other combatants of Islam.